

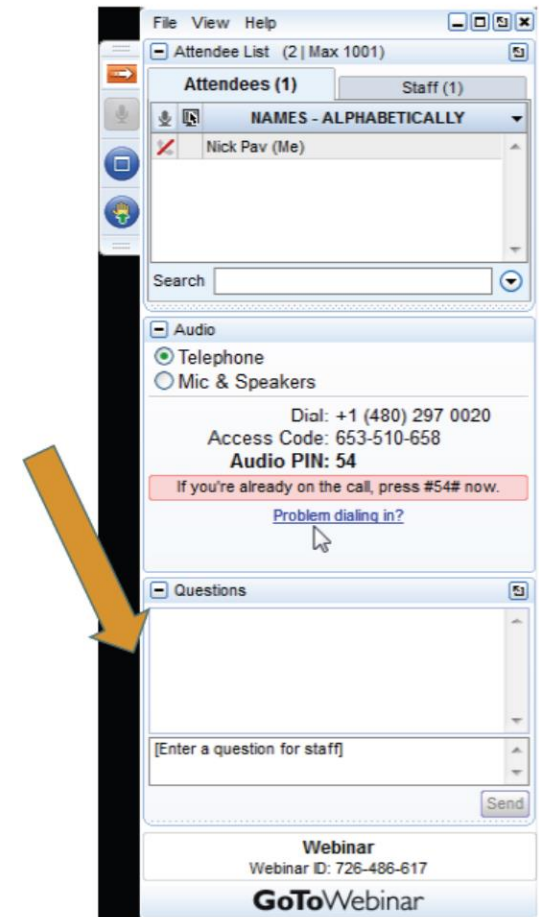


2018 California Child Welfare Budget Requests

May 23, 2018

Logistics

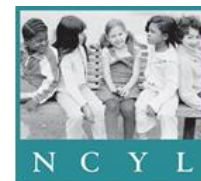
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Today's Speakers

- **Anna Johnson**

Senior Policy Associate, Child Welfare
National Center for Youth Law



- **Susanna Kniffen**

Senior Director, Child Welfare Policy
Children Now

CH1LDREN NOW

- **Amy Lemley**

Executive Director
John Burton Advocates for Youth



- **Kim Lewis**

Legislative Advocate
California Coalition for Youth



- **Kristin Power**

Senior Policy Associate
Alliance for Children's Rights

- **Elise Weinberg**

Policy Attorney
Alliance for Children's Rights



California Budget Overview

Revenue

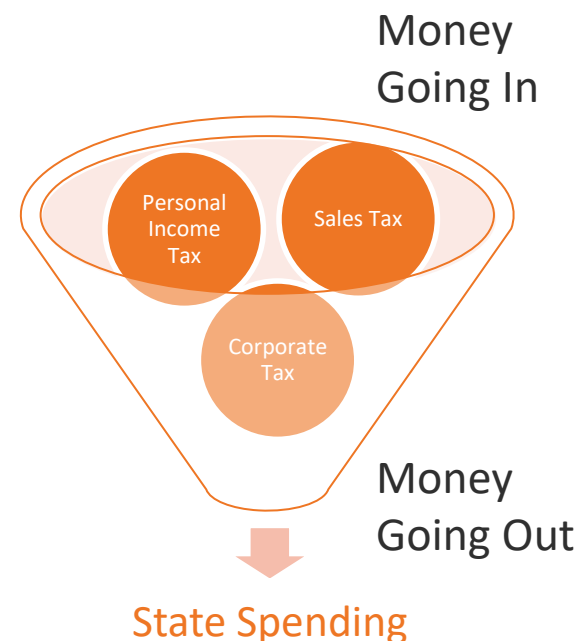
- General Fund (**not designated**)
 - Primarily personal income, sales and corporate taxes

Spending

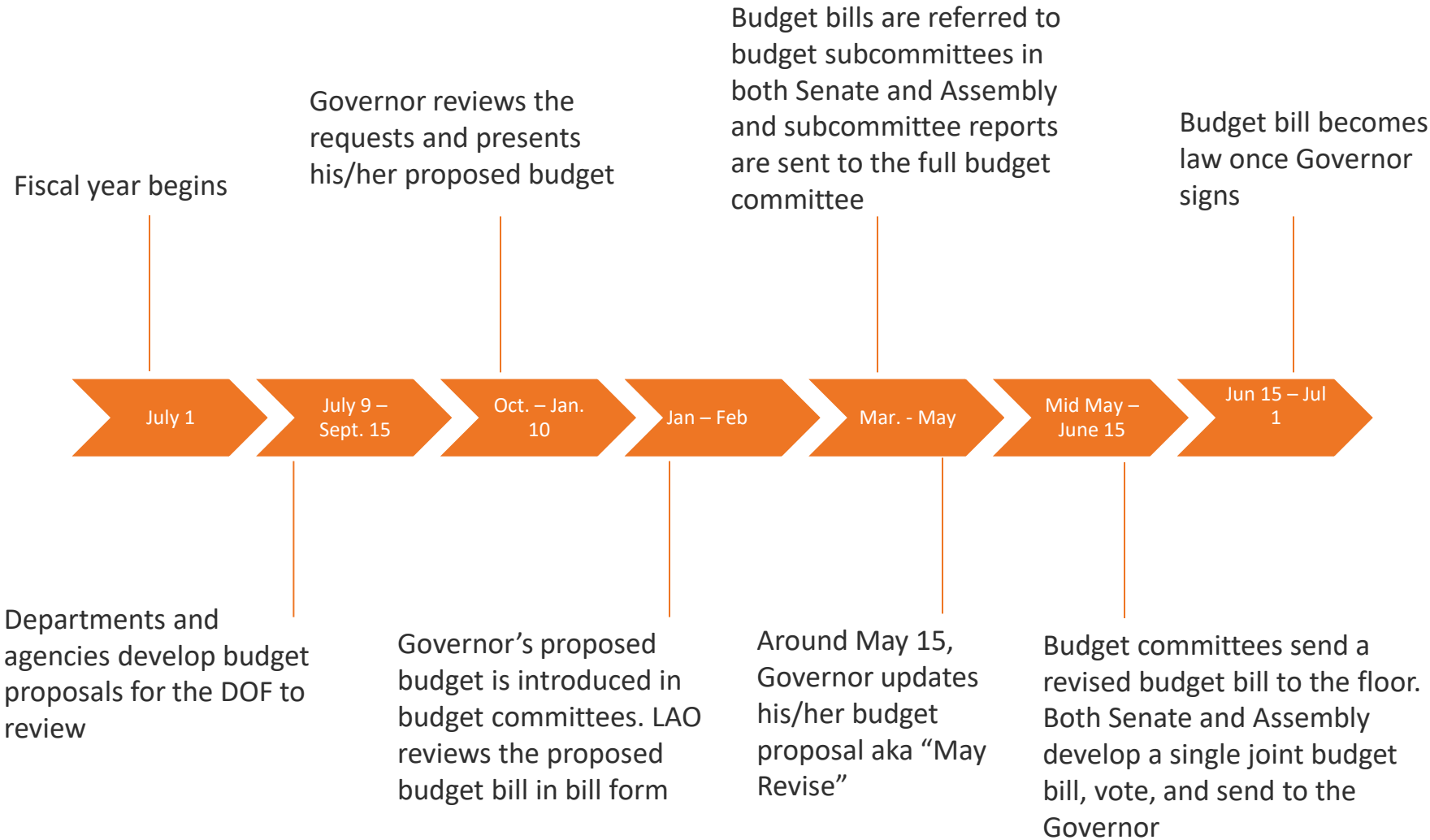
- #1 Education (K-12 Education)
- #2 Health (Medi-Cal)

Goal

- Balancing revenue and expenditures
 - ✓ General Fund revenues must be at least equal to spending



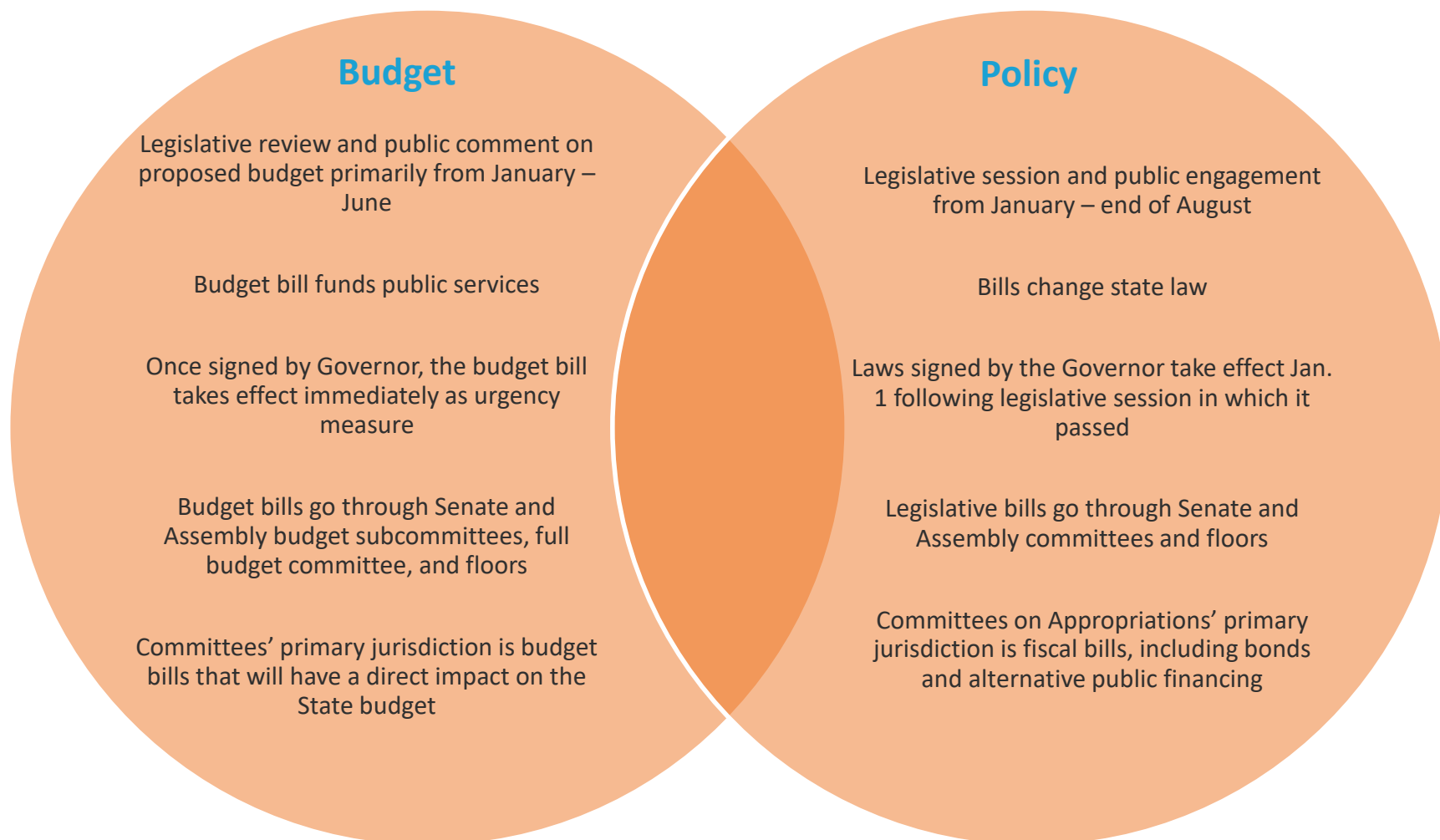
California Budget Process



Budget Terminology

- **Governor's Proposed Budget** – Governor's proposed spending for the upcoming fiscal year, released January 10
- **May Revise** – Governor's updated budget proposal since January, released around May 15
- **Budget issue** – issue that requires an allocation of General Funds to be addressed
- **Budget request** – amount of General Funds requested to be allocated to address the issue
- **Trailer bill** – Additional language which accompanies the budget if statutory changes are necessary to implement certain provisions in the passed budget
- **Fiscal Year (FY)** – Runs from July 1 – June 30

Budget Process Versus Legislative Process



Governor's May Revision Proposed Budget

FY 2018-19

Figure SUM-02
General Fund Expenditures by Agency
(Dollars in Millions)

	2017-18	2018-19	Change from 2017-18	
			Dollar Change	Percent Change
Legislative, Judicial, Executive	\$3,397	\$4,037	\$640	18.8%
Business, Consumer Services & Housing	404	430	26	6.4%
Transportation	232	239	7	3.0%
Natural Resources	3,506	3,452	-54	-1.5%
Environmental Protection	214	110	-104	-48.6%
Health and Human Services	35,664	38,865	3,201	9.0%
Corrections and Rehabilitation	11,687	11,976	289	2.5%
K-12 Education	54,005	55,833	1,828	3.4%
Higher Education	15,123	15,693	570	3.8%
Labor and Workforce Development	147	123	-24	-16.3%
Government Operations	1,134	1,813	679	59.9%
General Government:				
Non-Agency Departments	785	1,076	291	37.1%
Tax Relief/Local Government	433	466	33	7.6%
Statewide Expenditures	315	3,449	3,134	994.9%
Total	\$127,046	\$137,562	\$10,516	8.3%

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

FY 2018-19 Child Welfare Advocates Budget Requests and Issues

- *Ongoing funding at time of placement*
- *Delaying statewide LOC implementation*
- *Eliminating barriers to enter or re-enter extended foster care*
- *Continuing FPRRS funding*
- *Funding Family Urgent Response System*
- *Creating Youth Reinvestment Fund*
- *Establishing Fostering Success Fund*
- *Supporting Cal Grant Access for Foster Youth*
- *Funding Homeless Youth Act of 2018*

FUNDING AT TIME OF PLACEMENT

Overview

Budget Issue: Solution to ensure families who accept placement of a child prior to approval can receive funding at the time of placement while they work to be approved

Budget Request:

- Clarify that foster care funding **start at time of placement** even if a RFA application has not been submitted.
- Ensure there is funding for the entire **period between placement and approval**
- Provide funding **for all children**

Purpose/Rationale

- Since RFA was implemented, many families who took in children **did not** receive foster care benefits until RFA approval
- Emergency caregivers were **enduring months of extreme financial burdens and stress** while simultaneously attempting to navigate a bureaucratic maze to care for relative children
- Placements were **set up to fail** and further traumatize children due to lack of funding
- **Families were discouraged** from becoming foster parents or remaining as foster parents

Progress to Date: Assembly Bill 110 (2018)

- Governor Brown signed AB 110 into law on March 13, 2018 (**Welfare & Institutions Code § 11461.35**)
- Provides families completing resource family approval funding **for the period of March 30, 2018 through June 30, 2018**



Governor's May Revision Proposes Continued Funding for Emergency Caregivers Pending RFA Approval

- \$13.4 million TANF in FY 2018-19
- \$27 million TANF for FY 2019-20 - FY 2020-21

Crucial TBL Provisions Included

- ✓ **Continuity between AB 110 and Long-Term Solution:** Ensure no gap in funding between the end of the short-term funding and the start of the long-term solution
- ✓ **Funding linked to the day placement:** Ensure that funding starts at the moment of child placement, not when the RFA-01 application is submitted
- ✓ **Solution covers all children:** Ensure that any child not eligible for EA payments still receive funding while the family is pending RFA approval



Funding for entire time period between placement and approval: Ensure funding for emergency caregivers continues from placement until RFA approval with no break in funding. The May Revision says that the EA funding is for up to six months in the first year and up to 90 days in subsequent years. There is lack of clarity as to what happens when the county is no longer able to access EA funds.

Related Policy Bill



Send in a support letter



Attend and testify at
Committee hearings

AB 2183 (Rubio) Providing Critical Resources at Time of Placement

- **Ensures** critical funding for individuals who accept foster children into their care prior to being resource family approved
 - Permits counties to **waive** any approval requirements that are not related to health and safety, on a case-by-case basis, based on extraordinary circumstances
 - **Initiates School of Origin** (SOO) funding at the time of placement, regardless of whether the family has been approved as a resource family and ensures that Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) can access SOO funds
- Currently in Assembly Committee on Appropriations

DELAY LOC IMPLEMENTATION

Overview

Budget Issue: Need for study, analysis, and adjustments prior to statewide implementation of LOC protocol

Budget Request:

- **Delay statewide implementation** of LOC until:
 - Additional adjustments based on the current pilot are made
 - Clarity around how county SCI systems will change to be consistent with LOC rate structure

Purpose/Rationale

- LOC protocol has not been piloted or studied to determine its accuracy
- Results for the inter-rater reliability study have not been released
- Counties are working to revise their specialized care systems to conform with the new LOC tiers
 - State has asked counties to review and revise their specialized care system as needed to align with the new LOC rate structure said that counties need to revise their specialized care systems

Progress to Date: ACL 18-48 / May Revision

- **ACL 18-48**
 - Delays statewide implementation of LOC protocol until (1) DSS makes adjustments and (2) counties revise their SCI programs to align with the LOC rate structure
 - Provides guidance on modifying county SCI programs, which must be submitted by June 30, 2018
 - Modifies eligibility for Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)
- **Governor's May Revision**
 - Includes \$2.5 million to address county workload associated with implementation of an assessment tool to assess a child's level of care needs

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO ENTER OR RE-ENTER EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

OVERVIEW

Budget Issue: Administrative barriers preventing foster youth from participation in extended foster care

Budget Request:

- Slight funding increase to Extended Foster Care to allow for a small, but important, population of foster youth to access their entitled right to the program
- LAO anticipates the changes to be very narrow and technical
- Estimated fiscal cost to be between **\$1.1 million and \$2.6 million** (includes foster care spending by the federal government)
 - **\$800,000 to \$1.7 million** General Fund cost

Purpose/Rationale

- Extended foster care helps foster youth better successfully transition into adulthood
 - Few foster youth are ready for independence at age 18 and face a **high risk of homelessness** if not adequately prepared
- Some foster youth are not able to access extended foster care because of **administrative barriers** outside of their control
- Administrative barriers should not be the reason to keep foster youth from accessing the services that they critically need

Who would be eligible for extended foster care?

- Youth who had an open dependency petition, but who turned 18 years of age before being adjudged a dependent of the juvenile court
- Youth who successfully appealed the juvenile court's dismissal of their dependency petition, but turned 18 years of age while the appeal was pending
- Youth over 18 years of age who would otherwise be eligible to re-enter extended foster care, but who were not receiving the benefits of the AAP payments or Kin-GAP because their guardian or adoptive parent no longer provides ongoing support or passed away

LAO – Projected Extended Foster Care Caseload and Cost Growth Under Proposed Changes

Category	Lower Range Caseload	Higher Range Caseload	Lower Range State Cost	Higher Range State Cost
Youth who turn 18 years old before disposition hearing	40	80	\$700,000	\$1,500,000
Youth who turn 18 years old before appeal resolution	1	3	\$30,000	\$60,000
Youth eligible for, but not receiving AAP or Kin-GAP	1	3	\$20,000	\$60,000
Youth whose parent or guardian do not provide support, but still receive aid	10	40	\$50,000	\$120,000
Total	50	120	\$800,000	\$1,700,000

Related Policy Bill



Send in a support letter



Attend and testify at Committee hearings

AB 2337 (Gipson) Closing the Gap for Vulnerable Transition Age Foster Youth

- Allows youth who had an open dependency petition, but who turned 18 years of age before being adjudged a dependent of the juvenile court, to be found within jurisdiction of the juvenile court
 - Prevents the juvenile court from dismissing a petition of a youth who successfully appealed the juvenile court's dismissal of their dependency petition, but turned 18 years of age while the appeal was pending
 - Allows youth over 18 years of age to re-enter extended foster care if he or she was not receiving the benefits of AAP payments or Kin-GAP because their guardian or adoptive parent no longer provides ongoing support or passed away
- Currently on Suspense File in Assembly Appropriations Committee

CONTINUED FOSTER PARENT RETENTION, RECRUITMENT & SUPPORT FUNDING (FPRRS)

OVERVIEW

Budget Issue: Governor's budget decreases FY 2018-19 FPRRS funding

Budget Request:

- Continue FPRRS funding at current level in FY 2018-19 (\$21.6 million GF for FPRRS funding in 2018-19)
 - Require counties to obtain caregiver input on FPRRS spending plans
 - Refine the recruitment and retention focus to support best practices
 - Enhance accountability through improved reporting

"This activity will assist in facilitating emergency placements in which the child already has a connection to the caregiver and thereby potentially both increase the number of available approved Resource Families and decrease the number of replacements."

Purpose/Rationale

- Funding provided to county welfare/probation departments to recruit **new** foster family home caregivers
 - Staffing to provide and improve **direct services and supports to caregivers, remove any barriers** defined as priorities in the county implementation plan and **developing reports on outcomes**.
 - **Costs for exceptional child needs** not covered by the caregiver-specific rate that would normalize the child's experience, **stabilize the placement, or enhance the child's well-being**.
 - Intensive **relative finding**, engagement, and navigation efforts.
 - Emerging technological, evidence-informed, or other **nontraditional outreach approaches to potential caregivers**.

"The tangible supports are targeted items designated to assist relative and NREFM caregivers in meeting the immediate needs of babies and toddlers . . . formula, diapers, training pants, car seats, strollers, cribs and toddler beds."

FPRRS Funding Activities and Programs

Foster Parent Liaisons or Specialists

- Supporting and connecting caregivers with resources

Initial Placement Support

- Interim funding for emergency caregivers

Respite Programs and Child Care

- Assisting caregivers in attending trainings, meetings and appointments
- Preventing caregiver burnout

Foster Parent Mentors/Support Groups

- Guiding relatives through RFA process
- Helping caregivers access resources and express their experiences and challenges

Placement Specific Recruitment

- Finding the right family for each child

Family Finding Programs

- Locating familial connections for placement and permanency

“Providing caring, quality support to children not born into one's own nuclear family and/or supporting reunification efforts to the parents requires a great deal of time and energy on the part of our caretakers . . . it can seem overwhelming especially if the caregivers are facing a new challenge.”

Support groups are a proven method of bringing people together who share similar experiences or life situations to share information and provide support.”

FAMILY URGENT RESPONSE SYSTEM

OVERVIEW

Budget Issue: Families and children and youth in foster care need real-time assistance as they face triggering events, trauma responses and moments of urgency and uncertainty.

Budget Request:

- Funding to provide caregivers and current and former foster youth with immediate 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week support by establishing a statewide toll-free hotline and county mobile response teams
 - Requesting **\$15 million** in FY 2018-19 and **\$30 million** ongoing

Purpose/Rationale

- Stabilize placements at the moment issues arise
 - Misunderstandings and challenging situations in the home can lead to placement instability and placement disruptions—trauma informed operators trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation and available 24/7 can help
- Connect youth and families to services to address their needs
 - If needed, county mobile response teams can develop a plan of action and connect the family and/or foster youth with supports and services to address their unique needs
- Reduce law enforcement engagement when youth and families experience challenging situations
 - Law enforcement may be inappropriately engaged when children and youth in foster care are healing from trauma, leading to disproportionate involvement in the juvenile justice system



Send in a support letter



Attend and testify at Committee hearings

Related Policy Bill

AB 2043 (Arambula) Family Urgent Response System for Foster Youth and Caregivers

- Establishes 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week toll-free hotline for caregivers and current and former foster youth
 - Operators trained to engage in conflict resolution and de-escalation
 - Operators determine whether to dispatch mobile response teams
- Establishes a 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week county crisis mobile response teams to provide in-home response and stabilization to caregivers and current and former foster youth
 - Teams will help identify supports and services necessary to meet caregiver and/or youth's needs
- Currently on Assembly Committee on Appropriations

FOSTERING SUCCESS AND THE YOUTH REINVESTMENT FUND

Youth Deserve #CareNotCages

The Current Youth Arrest Landscape

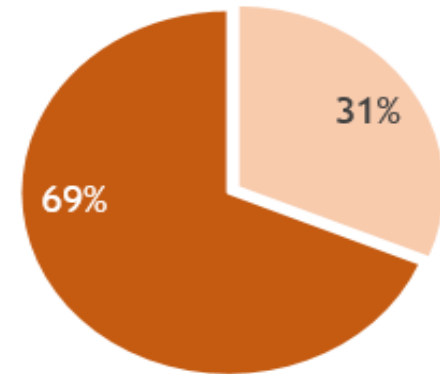
Fostering Success (Assemblymember Gipson)

The Youth Reinvestment Fund (Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer and Senator Bradford)

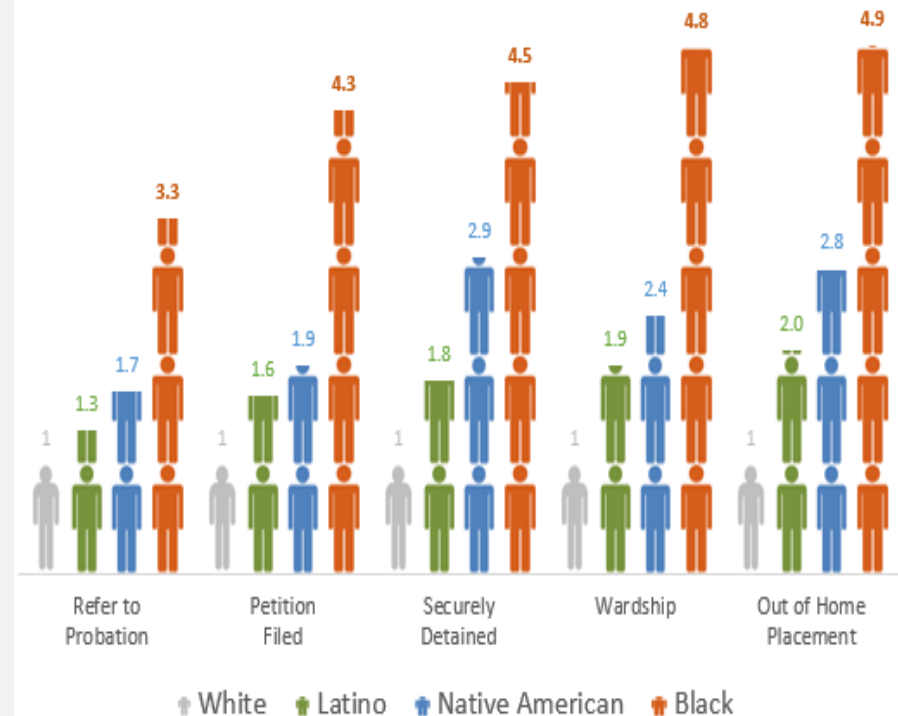
Youth Arrests in California

43,000 youth arrested for low level offenses

- (69%) were arrested for things like: petty theft, school fights, smoking marijuana, running away, violating curfew.
- **Youth of color** bear the brunt of justice system involvement for low level offenses



■ Felony
■ Misdemeanor and Status Offenses



Diversion is Safer and More Appropriate Than Incarceration

Diversion is safer!



2.5 X less
likely to re-
offend for pre-
arrest diversion

Diversion is a smart investment.

Every **\$1** invested in diversion can return up
to **\$25** to society.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
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OVERVIEW: Fostering Success

Budget Issue:

Investigation: Fostering Failure

“They used the cops as a scare tactic,” said former foster youth Ashley Hensley, 24, who was arrested twice at the Mary Graham Children’s Shelter

“Instead of giving me help, they gave me a juvenile hall cell”

Budget Request:

- Funds \$7 million state with 25% county match for
 - community based, trauma-informed, culturally rooted healing practices and alternative to arrest, detention, and incarceration of foster youth
- Funds \$500 thousand state with 75% federal match to
- Train law enforcement and staff on these programs so they know the process for diversion
- Total = \$7.5 million

Fostering Success Supporters



Fostering Success

Join our Coalition



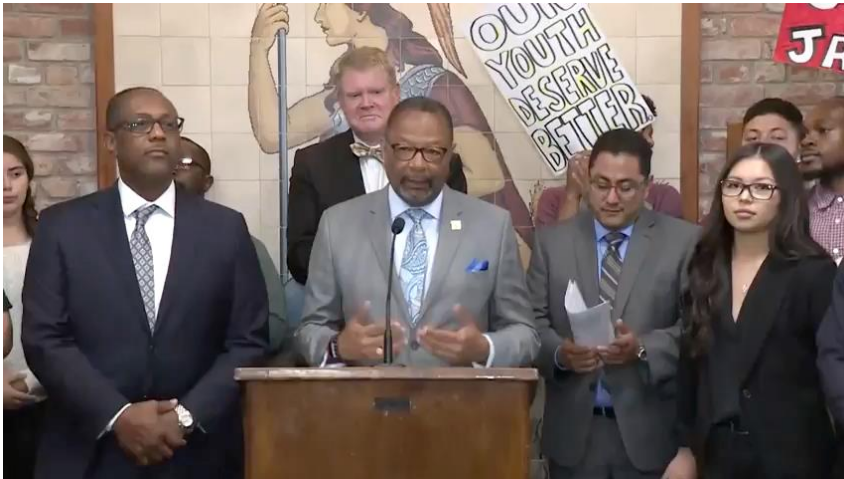
Send in a support
letter

Questions?

Contact

ajohnson@youthlaw.org

The Youth Reinvestment Fund



OVERVIEW: Youth Reinvestment Fund

Budget Issue: System-involved youth suffer from abuse, abandonment, neglect, trauma and developmental disabilities that influence their behaviors

Those youth are funneled into the justice system where they experience further harms, increasing their chances of re-incarceration

Budget Request:

- **\$75 million:** Local Diversion Programs
 - 85% of funds go to CBOs for education, mentoring, behavioral health services, and mental health services
- **\$15 million:** Social Workers in Public Defenders Offices
 - Integrate social workers with public defenders to address the root causes that bring youth into the system
- **\$10 million:** Trauma Informed Diversion Programs for Native American Youth
 - Ensure diversion services to Native American youth are culturally rooted
- Total = **\$100 million**

The Youth Reinvestment Fund Supporters



The Youth Reinvestment Fund

Join our Coalition



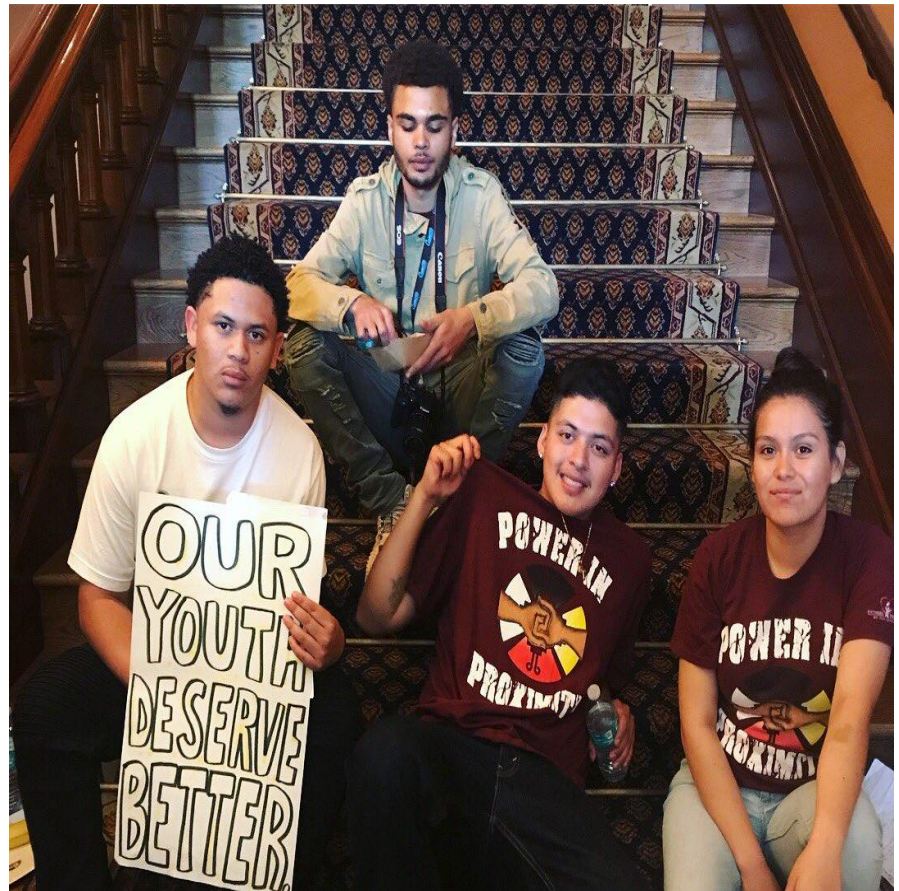
Organizational [Sign-On Letter](#)

Send in a [support letter](#)

Questions?

Contact

ajohnson@youthlaw.org



REDUCING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

OVERVIEW

Budget Issue: Growing homelessness among youth, age 12 to 24

Budget Request:

- **\$1 million** to establish Office of Homeless Youth in California Department of Housing and Community Development
- **\$60 million** annually to fund a continuum of housing options and supportive services for homeless youth, age 12 to 24

Youth homelessness has not been addressed in California for a number of reasons



In the last 5 years, these reasons have largely been addressed.

No definitive count



Lack of understanding about causes



Lack of evidence about its long-term impact



Lack of federal leadership

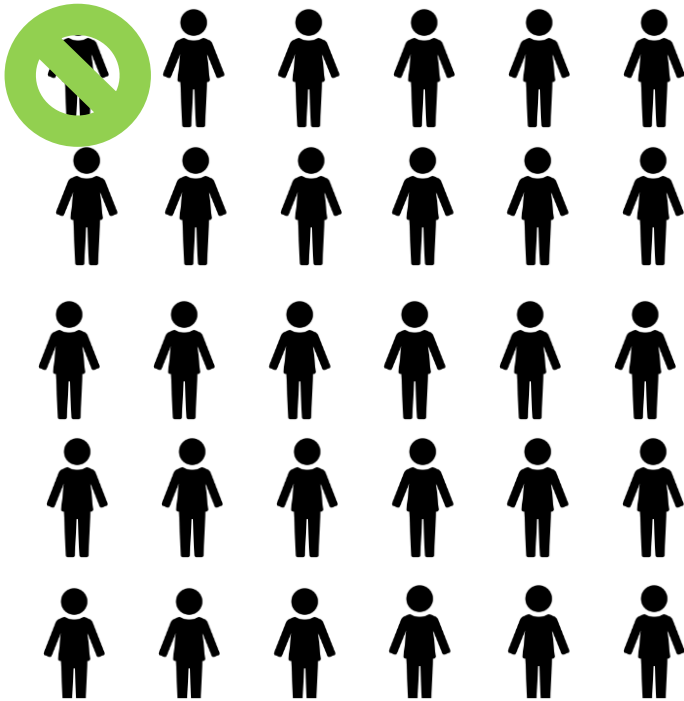


No clear state mandate



**Current
budget
proposal!**

Recently, the first definitive rate of homelessness among youth and young adults was developed.

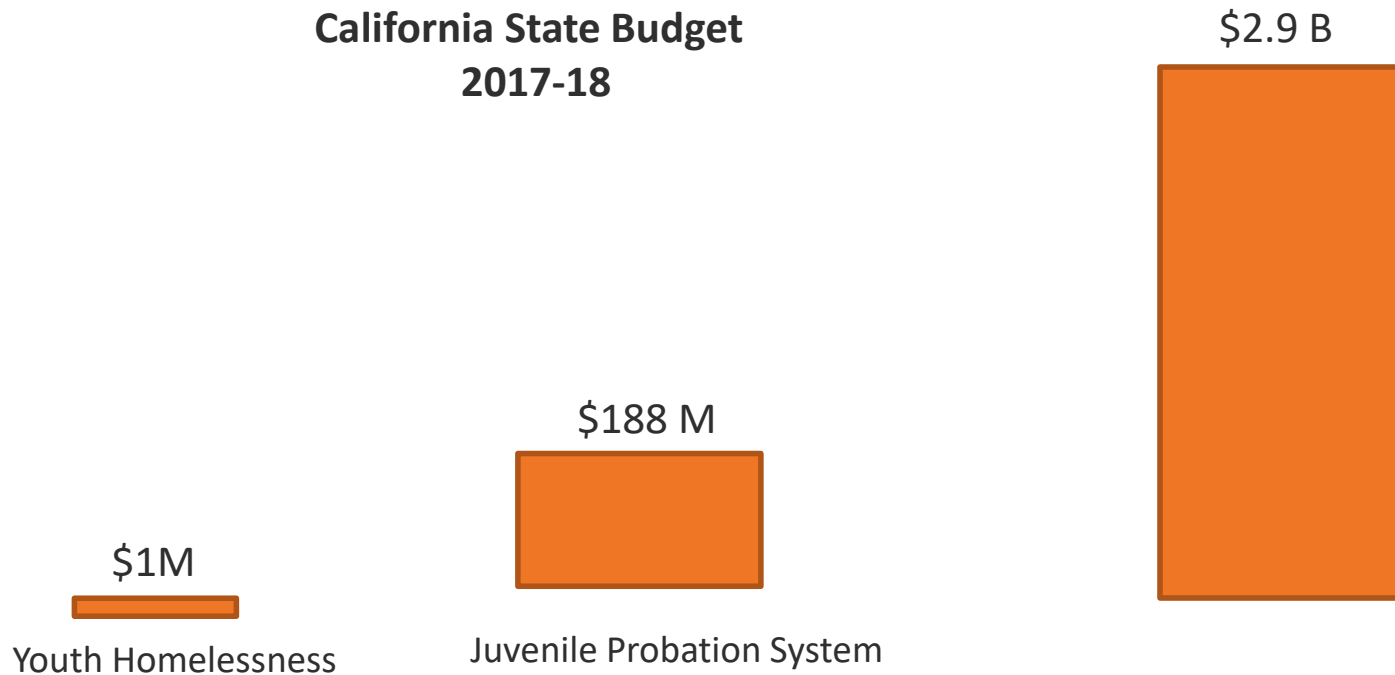


1 in 30 adolescents
ages 13-17



1 in 10 young adults
ages 18-25

Despite this tremendous need, youth homelessness is virtually unfunded in California



Senate and Assembly are Negotiating a State Approach to Homelessness

Senate



\$5 billion

Assembly



\$2.5 billion

Our goal is for homeless youth to be included in the final negotiated package.

CAL GRANT FOR FOSTER YOUTH

OVERVIEW

Budget Issue: Lack of access to post-secondary education for current and former foster youth.

Budget Request:

- \$5 million to expand access to the Cal Grant - California's largest financial aid program.
- Under consideration by Budget Subcommittee #3 in Senate and Assembly

Foster Youth Lag Behind Their Peers in Higher Education

Highest Grade Completed at Age 26

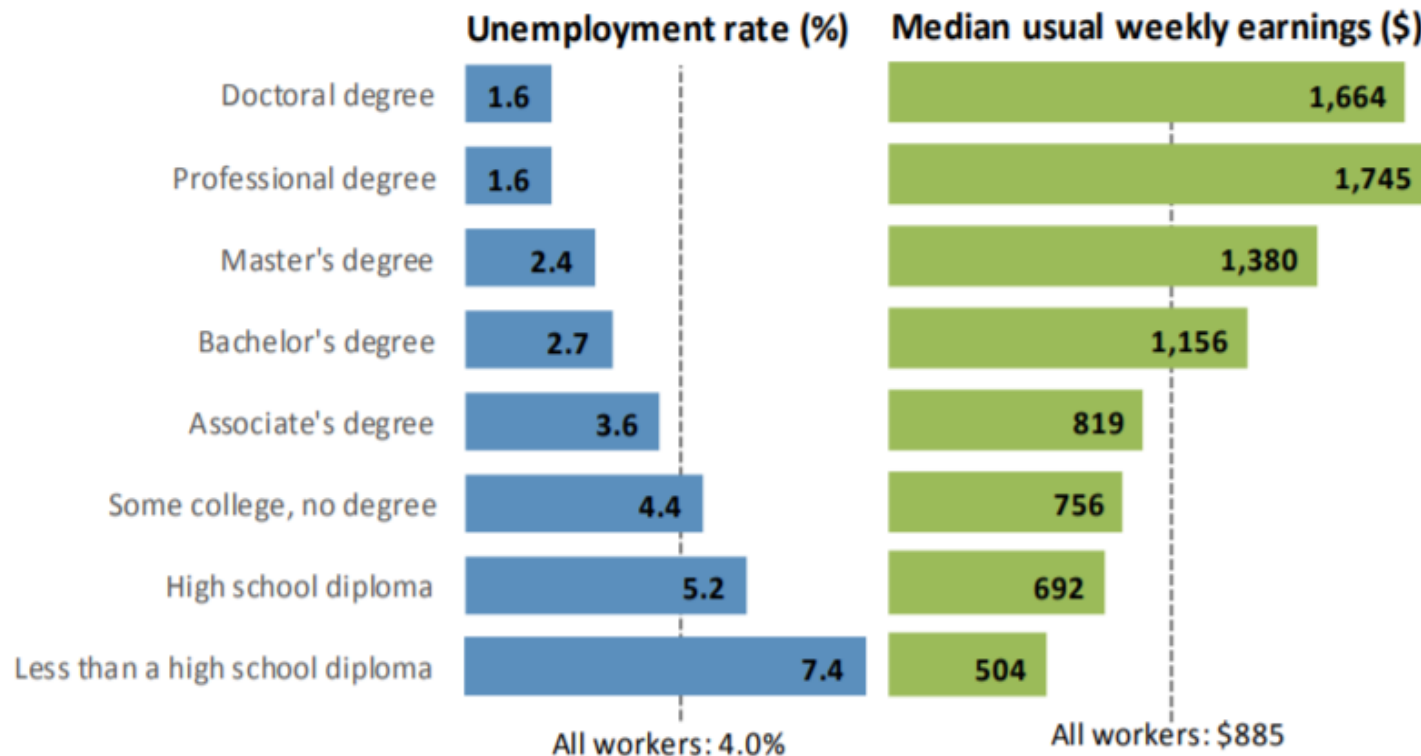
	Former foster youth	Same age comparison group
No high school diploma or GED	20%	6%
High school diploma only	31%	18%
GED only	9%	4%
One or more years of college, but no degree	32%	26%
2-year college degree	4%	10%
4-year college degree	3%	24%
One or more years of graduate school	1%	13%

8%

47%

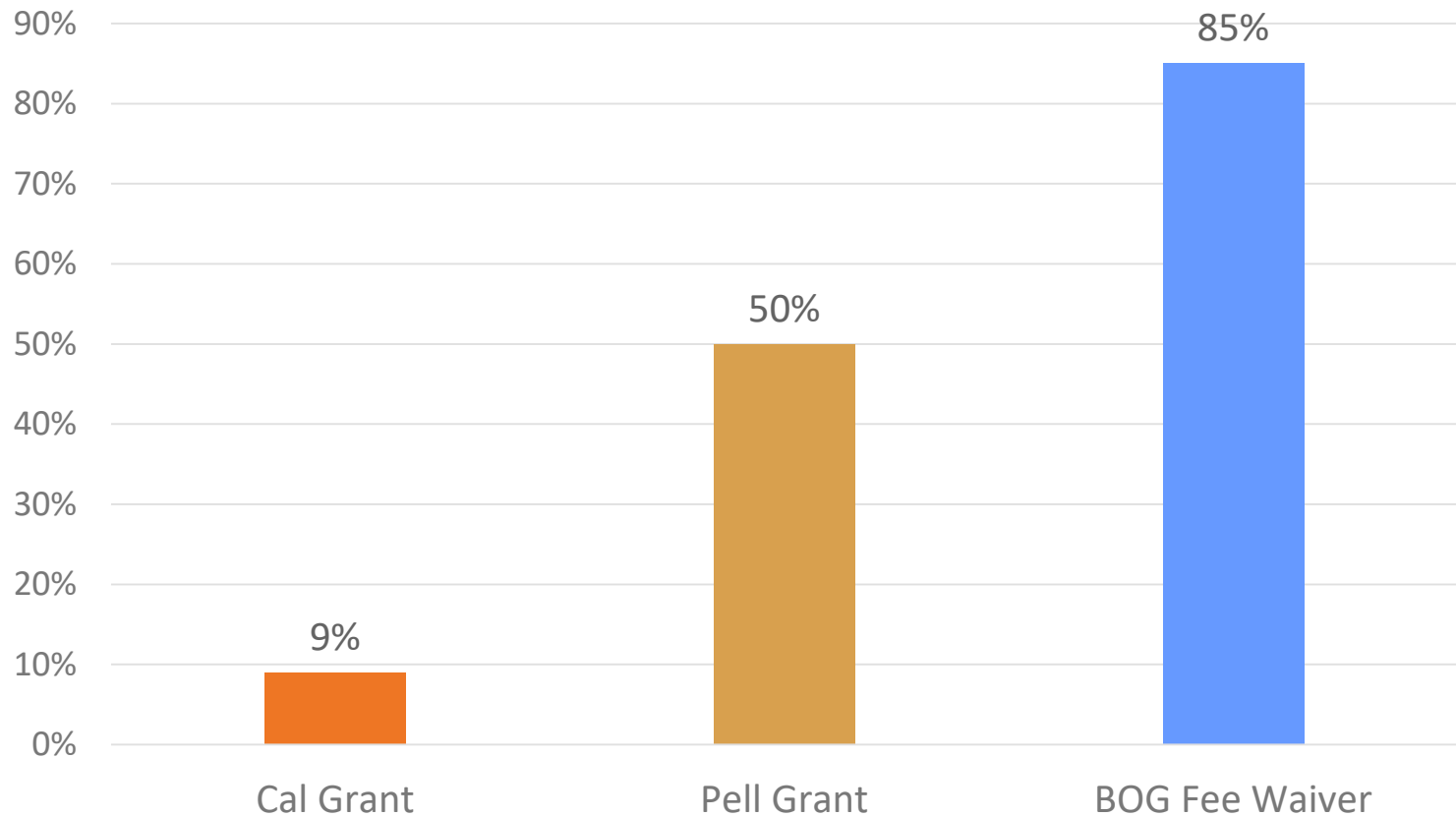
Translates into Lower Lifetime Wages and Employment

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



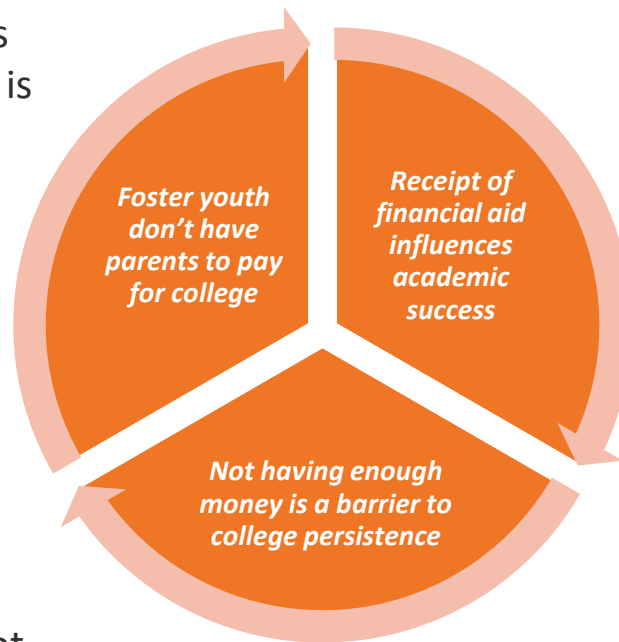
Rate of Cal Grant receipt is low among foster youth

Percentage of foster youth in CA community colleges who receive each form of financial aid



Why is the low receipt of Cal Grant problematic?

Parental earnings is the **#1 way** college is paid for in the US.



California foster youth who receive financial aid are more than **40% more likely to accrue 15+ credits** or more credits in one year.

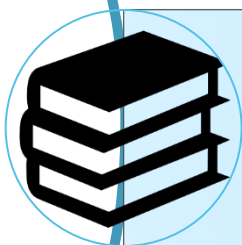
33.3% of California foster youth cited not being able to afford college as a major barrier to returning to school.

Students who receive \$10,000 or more in financial aid are **43% more likely** to graduate from college than those who receive \$1000 or less.

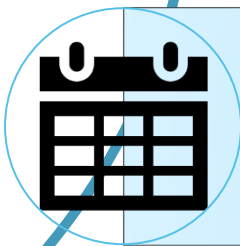
Provisions of Cal Grant Budget Proposal



Authorize foster youth to receive an entitlement Cal Grant if they meet other existing eligibility criteria and have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year.



Extend the length of time a foster youth is eligible for the Cal Grant from 4 years to 8 years.



Change the deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth applying to attend community college

CHILD WELFARE BUDGET REQUESTS RECAP

Child Welfare Budget Requests Recap

- Funding at the time of placement - \$13.4 million FY 2018-19; \$27 million from FY 2019-20 through FY 2020-21 (May Revise)
- Delay statewide LOC implementation - \$2.5 million (May Revise)
- Eliminating barriers to enter or re-enter extended foster care - \$800,000 - \$1.7 million
- Continued foster parent retention, recruitment & support funding (FPRRS) - \$21.6 million for FY 2018-19
- Fostering Success Fund - \$7.575 million for 3 years
- The Youth Reinvestment Fund - \$100 million
- Homeless Youth Act of 2018 - \$61 million
- Cal Grant Access for Foster Youth - \$5 million

Questions?

- PowerPoint slides, webinar recording, and certification of participation will be posted at www.kids-alliance.org/webinars
- To submit questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”

